

Paul Scott Turner  
7751 Wood Shade Court  
West Jordan, Utah 84084

January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am appalled by the fact that nine of the eighteen plaintiff states involved in the Microsoft antitrust suit wish to continue litigation against Microsoft. This case has gone on far too long already. While the suit has dragged out in the federal courts, the IT industry, the economy, and the American public have suffered the effects. I see no need, now that a settlement has been reached, for Microsoft to be picked apart by nine states that should logically have no complaint with the settlement. The Justice Department should get this case over with and move on.

After six months of mediated negotiations, Microsoft and the Department of Justice came to an agreement that addresses all the antitrust violations, as well as some products and procedures that did not fall within the scope of the suit. Microsoft, for example, has agreed to reformat future versions of Windows, enabling its competitors, through modifications to the operating system, to introduce non-Microsoft software into Windows. Moreover, Microsoft has agreed to provide any party acting under the agreement with license to pertinent intellectual property rights. I see no reason for the plaintiff states to be unhappy with the settlement, other than the fact that Microsoft remains intact.

Any additional action taken on the federal level would be superfluous and counterproductive. I ask you not to condone petty behavior such as this within the federal court system. The settlement should stand.

Sincerely,



Paul Scott Turner